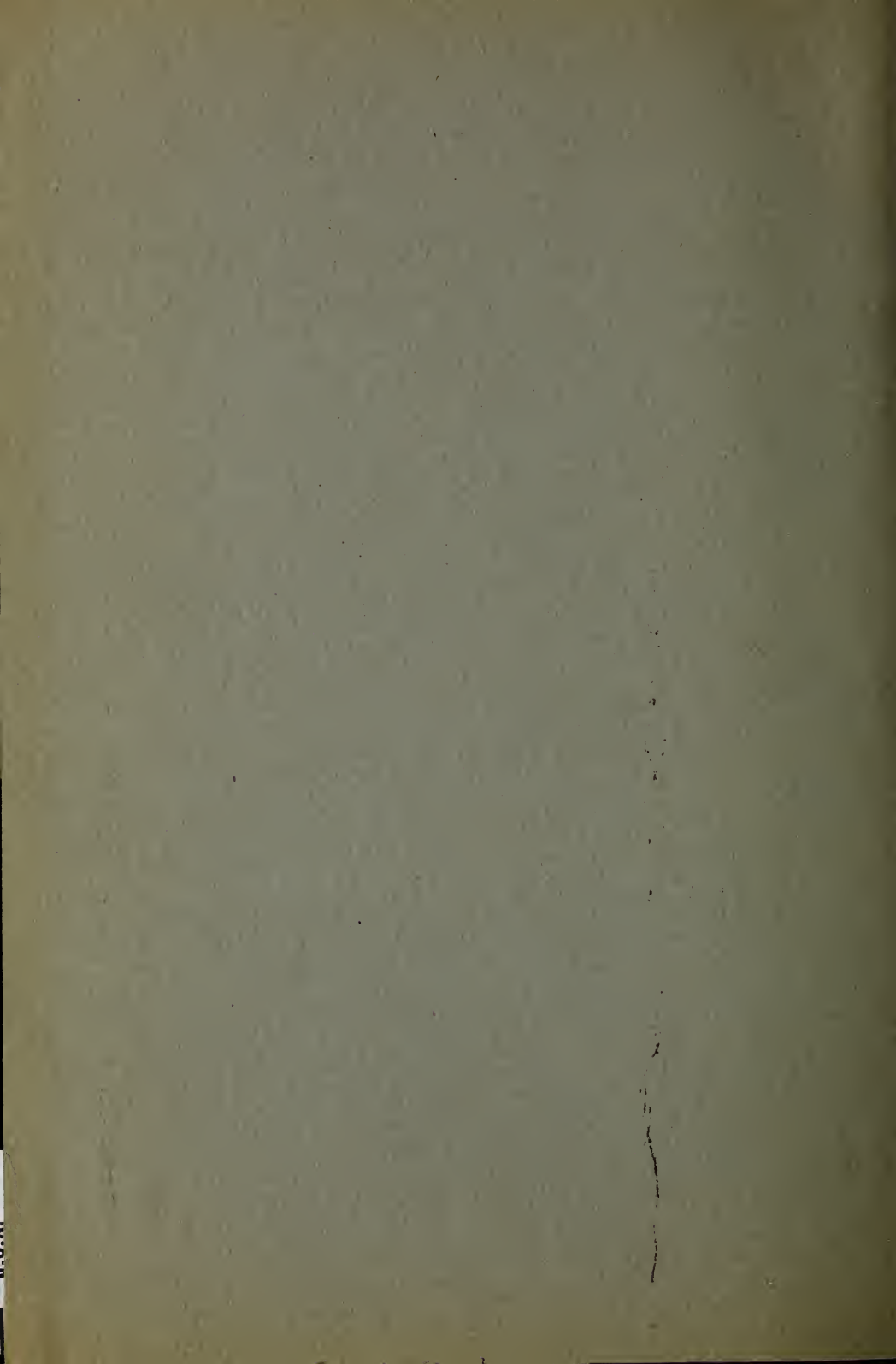


MARSHALL COUNTY
GENEALOGY SOCIETY



HISTORY
of
Foster Chapel
1873 — 1956



HISTORY OF FOSTER CHAPEL

The Foster Chapel Church is located in Marshall County, four and one-half miles north, and three-fourths mile east of the town of Bourbon, Indiana.

The Foster Chapel Class was organized in the fall of 1873 by Rev. M. Wayman with the following Charter Members: W. H. Foulke and wife, Jacob Johnson and wife, George Kitch and wife, Henry Hanes and wife, D. M. Klinger and wife, Mrs. Oren Rose, Mrs. Milton Hill and Mrs. Amanda Talmage. *and Mrs. William Kimes*

The Class worshipped with the United Brethren Class in the old log school-house across the road from the present building until 1880, when it was found necessary to build a house of worship. The building was begun under the pastorate of Rev. F. A. Robertson, and finished under the pastorate of Rev. J. W. Lowellen.

The following persons were elected as a Board of Trustees for the Methodist Episcopal Church at Sandridge (as the community was then known) by the Fourth Quarterly Conference at Etna Green on Jan. 24, 1880: W.H. Foulke, Major G. Wolford, George W. Kitch, D.M. Klinger, and George W. Tharp. The first three named served on the board for many years. During the building program D.M. Klinger and George W. Tharp resigned, and Jacob Johnson and Henry Hanes were elected to fill the vacancy.

On March 18, 1880, after many changes in plans, it was finally decided that the building should be thirty feet wide and forty-four feet long. There were to be two doors on the north, and four windows on the east side and also on the west side. At the south end of the building was to be a rostrum nine inches above the rest of the floor. Two chandeliers of oil hanging lamps, and two

single oil hanging lamps were to furnish light. The heating system was to consist of two wood burning stoves.

The contract was given to Daniel Kohler of Bourbon on May 3, 1880 for the sum of \$700. He was to furnish the material, do the carpenter work, and to have it completed by December 1, 1880. He was to be paid one-third when the material was on the ground, one-third when the building was enclosed, and the balance when it was completed.

Aaron Stivor did the plastering for 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per sq. yd., and furnished his own "board and tender." Ed King painted the building three coats of paint for \$45, with \$20 of that amount being applied on his subscription to the building fund.

The church when completed cost \$939.43. The amount subscribed was \$821, which left a deficit of \$118.43 to be raised on the day of Dedication.

"Christ's Love for the Church" was the theme of the Dedicatory sermon by Rev. Ford. The people showed their love for the church by providing the needed money in just thirty minutes. This was given in \$10, \$5, \$1, and even half dollars and quarter contributions.

The church was dedicated on Nov. 14, 1880, as the Foster Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church. The name Foster was in memory of Bishop Foster. It was a great service, and all the people rejoiced and praised God for their new house of worship.

From 1880 until 1915 Foster Chapel was served by the pastor from the Bourbon Methodist Church, with preaching services every two weeks on Sunday afternoon. These services were well attended by the loyal members, and by folks from the neighboring churches. Some walked three or four miles, others came in wagons or buggies over

corduroy roads which at times were almost impassable.

The services began at 2:30 P.M., but the hour of closing was very indefinite. After an inspiring sermon of an hour, a praise service was held and everyone testified as to what the Lord had done for them in the days past. Truly, "the Lord sent the old time power, and His name was glorified" in these services.

The Class Leader and the Sunday School Superintendent held very responsible offices in these days. It was the duty of the Class Leader to conduct the mid-week prayer service, the bi-weekly class meeting following Sabbath School, and to visit the sick and needy, and to report these to the pastors. The full responsibility of the Sunday School fell to the Superintendent and his helpers as the pastor was never present at these services. There were usually two classes

in the Sunday School, one for adults and for children. The collection was really a penny collection. Old records show that it rarely amounted to fifty pennies.

The first repairs and additions were made to the church in 1890. At this time a belfry was added, with a bell to summon the folks to worship. A strip of land was purchased from John Earnest for \$15, on which shade trees were planted and hitching posts were erected to accommodate the horses and buggies.

The same year, 1890, the Eworth League was organized by the pastor's wife, Mrs. Gene. The services were held on Sunday evenings and were of great help in training the young people of the church.

In 1908, the congregation began a new project to enlarge the building, to accommodate the crowds that gathered for special

programs, revival services, and funerals.

During many funerals fully half of the crowd could not get inside the building.

A room twenty-two feet by thirty-six feet was added, also a vestibule and a new belfry. The new basement with cement floor housed the furnace. A gasoline lighting plant was quite an improvement over the old oil lamps of 1880. The sanctuary contained new modern pews, and about half of it was carpeted. Both rooms were beautifully decorated by John Paschall of Bourbon, who was an artist at this work.

With the leadership of the pastor, Rev. D.S. Jones and the Board of Trustees: George Hatfield, W.H. Foulke, Rufus Hanos, Levi Knopp, and Melvin Molebash, and with the generous help of the community, the work was begun in May of 1908, and completed by October 1, of the same year.

The dedication service for the remodeled Foster Chapel began at 10 A.M. on Sunday, October 4, 1908. The services were in charge of the District Superintendent, Dr. Bennett, assisted by Rev. W.R. Wemos, a former pastor, and the current pastor, Rev. Jones. Dr. Parr, one of the great Methodist preachers of the time gave the Dedicatory sermon on the Subject, "Love Never Faileth," and those who were present reported that it was a stirring sermon.

The remodeling cost about \$2500, and all but \$950 had been cared for previous to the day of dedication. The records say that after the sermon by Dr. Parr, that the "hat" was passed and a collection of \$125.10 was received. This was said to have been the largest "hat collection" ever to have been collected in the history of these churches here about. This was followed by a collection by subscription which soon provided the

needed amount. The pastor, the members, and the people of the community rejoiced together and praised God for His helping power.

The evening services were conducted by Dr. Bennett and Rev. Wenes. A large crowd was present, and all felt it was the end of a "Perfect Day," but the beginning of better things yet to come for Foster Chapel.

On July 25, 1912 the women of the church organized a Ladies Aid Society which met each month. In these meetings they discussed problems of the church and of the community, and made plans to meet these needs. Ice-cream socials, dinners at public sales, and at the Bourbon Fair gave them the necessary finances to carry on their share of the work of the church. The Ladies Aid was not only a financial help to the church but it aided spiritually and socially as well.

Later a Women's Foreign Missionary Society was organized with monthly meetings on Sunday afternoons. Since the merger of these two organizations of the Methodist Church in 1940, the Women's Society of Christian Service has been one of Foster Chapel's strongest organizations. Today it has a membership of forty, with all the women members of the church enrolled, as well as other interested ladies of the community.

In 1915 the Bourbon Methodist Church became a station, and Foster Chapel was left as a flock without a shepherd. For a few months the pastor from the Inwood-Bothol circuit served as pastor. After the minister from Slippenance took over the work. Both of these plans were unsatisfactory to all concerned. The Church Board then tried another plan. They hired a retired minist-

er, Rev. J.S.Cain of Warsaw to serve as a week-end pastor. "Daddy "Cain as he was lovingly called was a grand old man, filled with the Holy Spirit, and he led the worshippers to "Higher Ground."

The Congregation felt that week-end services were not sufficient for the church, so on February 18, 1916 a petition was presented to Bishop McDowell asking that a better plan for service be provided for Foster Chapel. This petition was signed by: J.S.Cain, pastor, Melvin Melobash- Class Leader and trustee, Edgar Snell-S.S.Supt., Alfred Laird-Recording Steward, and other trustees- Rufus Hanos, Levi Knopp, W.H. Foulke, And George Hatfield.

The Bishop's reply gave two premises; (1) If Foster Chapel would provide a parsonage in Bourbon, they would always be assured of a pastor; (2) A Bourbon Circuit would be formed as soon as possible by uniting some

of the out-kying Methodist churches with
Foster Chapel.

— Early ~~in the year~~ of 1917, the Board of
Trustees purchased and remodeled a home in
Bourbon as a parsonage for Foster Chapel
Church.

Rev. Will Menaugh, pastor of the Warsaw
circuit, with his family were Foster Chapel's
first parsonage family. Rev. Menaugh served
as pastor of Foster Chapel, Clunette, Pleasant
view, and Menequet- all country churches.
year

In the following the present Bourbon
circuit, or Parish as it is now called, was
formed by the uniting of Summit Chapel, Talma,
and Foster Chapel. Rev. A.A. Turner was the
first pastor of the new Bourbon Parish. For
the past thirty-eight years these three
churches have worked together, and have been
served by these pastors: A.A. Turner, Joseph
Primos, Thurman Mott, B.E. Hornaday, F.A.

Shipley, Russell Scudder, A. Ray Noland, Glenbur Sutton, Harlan Waite, Donald Keontz, Arvie M. Christie, Jack Aobersold, and Paul Trumbauro.

During the summer of 1956 the Parish was served by a retired minister, Rev. G. A. Snider and his wife. In September of 1956 Rev. Dale Bardsley was appointed to Bourbon Parish.

Forty-eight years have passed since the addition of 1908. Today, in 1956 the enrollment of the church school has passed the 100 mark, with an average attendance of 75 to 80 persons. So once again the church needed more room and more parking space for the automobiles which now bring the folks to church.

The consolidated school has taken the place of the one room school house giving our youth the best educational advantages of any nation on earth. The

church, too, must progress by giving them equal advantages in religious education. So, under the leadership of the pastor, Rev. Paul Trumbauer, the congregation embarked upon a new project of expansion.

In the summer of 1955 the trustees—Harvey Chonoweth, DeWitt McLebush, Loren Hahn, Harold Miller, and Harvey Hopler Jr. purchased a strip of land from Mrs. Alva Faulkner for the sum of \$100, to enlarge the parking lot.

In January of 1956 the remodeling of the building was begun. An upstairs was put in the 1908 addition, making three classrooms on each floor. This has made possible separate classrooms for all children's classes and the young people's classes. There is also room for separate worship services for the children's department. A nursery is provided for the very young of the congregation.

A new roof was put on, and the entire church has been beautifully re-decorated. To date some over \$4500 has been spent on this project, and more plans are being considered.

After this work was completed the congregation took a look at the parsonage and decided that it, too, needed attention. During the early fall of 1956 dozens of men and women gathered and completely re-decorated the interior. New Cabinets were installed in the kitchen, new linoleum was laid, and a new chimney built. Over \$1000 has been spent on this project.

, The young people of the church are organized into a growing and live Methodist Youth Fellowship. Each summer a goodly number of Intermediate and Senior groups attend Camp Adventure and Institute at the camp grounds at Epworth Forest.

Thus the history of Foster Chapel moves along. New generations come, and old generations pass on. God grant that each generation will bring forth good leaders, and that the light from Foster Chapel will always shine forth, beckoning the people of the community to come, and worship their Lord.

NOTE:

These historical facts were taken from records kept by my father, W.H.Foulke during the years he served as trustee. Also, some were secured from Mrs. Edgar Snell from records kept by her father, George Hatfield, who served as trustee for many years .

Mrs. Alfred Laird

